1052

PETITION

Of François Gingras, Grocer, and François Xavier Déry, Tinsmith, both of the City of Quebec, electors duly inscribed upon the electoral list of the electoral division of Quebec Centre, and qualified to vote at the last election of a member to represent the said division in the Legislative Assembly of Quebec; praying that Jean Baptiste Célestin Hébert, Esquire, Notary, of the City of Quebec, be summoned to appear at the Bar of the House, to then and there render an account of his conduct as Returning Officer, on the occasion of the last election for the electoral division of Quebec Centre.

Mr. FOURNIER.

Thursday, 9th November 1871.

538166

JU82
.G43
938156
CUTTER

10.—

Province of Quebec.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Quebec.

FRANCOIS GINGRAS, Grocer, and FRANCOIS XAVIER DÉRY, Tinsmith, both of the City of Quebec, electors duly enrolled upon the voters' lists of the electoral division of Quebec Centre, and qualified to vote at the last election of a member to represent the said division in the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, humbly do represent.

That at the last election which took place on the ninth day of June last, in the electoral division of Quebec-Centre for the election of a member to represent the said division in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Québec, Jean Baptiste Célestin Hébert, Esquire, Notary, was selected by the Executive Government of the Province to discharge the duties of returning officer in and for the said electoral division of Quebec-Centre.

That on the day and at the hour and place fixed by the proclamation of the said returning officer, to wit at twelve o'clock, M., on the ninth day of June last, before the Parliament House of this Province, in the City of Québec, a large number of electors duly enrolled on the said voters' lists then in force in the said division, and qualified to vote at the said election, assembled, in conformity with the said proclamation, then and there to proceed to the election of a member to represent the said electoral division, under the presidency and direction of the said Jean Baptiste Célestin Hébert, the returning officer duly commissioned for such purpose.

That on the day and at the place and hour hereinbefore set forth, after the arrival at the hustings of the Honorable Hector Louis Langevin, then a candidate at the said election and now the sitting member for the aforesaid electoral division, the said returning officer being then himself present upon the hustings and prepared to begin the proceedings at the said election, received a requisition in writing presented by and on behalf of Pierre Baillargeon, Esquire, Physician, the Honorable François Evanturel, Olivier Côté, Merchant, Charles Joseph-Louis Lafrance, Teacher, seconded by Pierre-Célestin Déry, Saddler, François Xavier Déry, Tinsmith, Honoré Mailloux, Joiner, and Jean-Baptiste Martel, Apothecary, demanding the nomination of Charles Alphonse Pantaléon Pelletier, of the City of Quebec, Esquire, Advocate, as one of the candidates at the said election.

That the said returning officer, on receiving the aforesaid requisition and after having taken communication thereof, handed the same to the Honorable Hector Louis Langevin, then and there present as a candidate at the said election, who, after having also taken communication thereof, restored it to the said returning officer.

That all the said movers and seconders of the aforesaid requisition were then, as they still continue to be, voters duly enrolled upon the voters lists then in force, and duly qualified to vote at the said last election of a member to represent the said electoral division of Quebec Centre in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Quebec.

That the said returning officer, proceeding to the said election, having required according to law the electors then and there present to name the person whom they desired to select at the said election to represent them in the Legislative Assembly of this Province, the said electors then and there present, being divided in their choice, demanded, some, the Honorable Hector-Louis Langevin, by their reiterated cries of Langevin ! Langevin ! others, in the same manner by their reiterated cries of Pelletier ! Pelletier! Poll ! Poll ! Charles Alphonse Pantaléon Pelletier, of Quebec, Esquire, Advocate, and Member of the House of Commons for the County of Kamouraska, to represent them in this House as member for the said electoral division of Quebec Centre.

That the said returning officer, as well by the aforesaid resolution placed in his hands as by the repeated calls of « Langevin » and of « Pelletier» Poll ! made in a loud and intelligible tone of voice, well understood that the electors then and there present were divided in opinion and desired to obtain a poll in order to record their votes for their respective candidates, which demand the said returning officer refused and neglected to grant.

That by such conduct, while acting as returning officer, the said Jean-Baptiste Célestin Hébert sought to favor the election of the Honorable Hector Louis Langevin to the detriment of that of the said Charles-Alphonse-Pantaléon Pelletier and in contempt of the rights and interests of the electors favorable to the election of the latter.

That a poll having been demanded, it became the duty of the said returning officer to grant it ; but that the said returning officer, with a view to secure the good will of the Honorable Hector Louis Langevin and for the purpose of lucre and gain, voluntarily and partially, illegally and unjustly denied the said demand, and, through such unjust refusal, deprived the said petitioners and all the other duly qualified electors of the said division favorable to the return of the said Charles Alphonse Pantaléon Pelletier of their right to a poll whereat to record their votes.

That your petitioners pray your Honorable House to be pleased to cite the said Jean-Baptiste Célestin Hébert, to appear at the Bar of this House, then and there to render account of his conduct as returning officer, at the said last election for the electoral division of Quebec Centre, and then and there to make answer unto the allegations of this their petition, which your petitioners will prove and verify when they are thereunto required by your Honorable House.

FRANÇOIS GINGRAS,
F. X. DERY.

Quebec, 9th November, 1871.

then,
force,
nt the
Prov-

equir-
whom
ve As-
led in
their
their
aléon
mons
or the

in his
e in a
n and
der to
rning

pliste
Lau-
detier
ction

rning
e the
lucre
hand,
other
said
cord

said
here
ction
swer
and